

HOUSE BILL NO. 14  
Judicial Branch Information Technology Projects  
Prepared by Office of Court Administration  
March 22, 2007

**Court Technology Improvement Projects**

**Record Management Improvements:**

• Enterprise license for case management system	\$1,100,000
• Judicial calendaring program	\$95,000
• Electronic case filing system	\$540,000
• Document management system	\$900,000

**Courtroom Technology Improvements:**

• Infrastructure and equipment upgrades	\$691,711
• Interactive video network	\$608,289

Total \$3,935,000

- Long-range investments in Montana's courts
- Enterprise approach consistent with Montana Information Technology Act
- Based on Judicial Branch's strategic plans
- Deploy stable, reliable technology
- On-going maintenance and/or operational costs associated with some projects

**Description of Projects**

- ☐ **Enterprise license for case management system (\$1,100,000).** A common case management system (FullCourt) has been installed in 141 municipal, city, and justices' courts and two district courts. To date, individual licenses have been purchased for each user. This funding would be used to purchase an enterprise license to complete installation of FullCourt case management system and jury management and document imaging subsystems in the District Courts and Courts of Limited Jurisdiction. An enterprise license would allow unlimited users for all courts and for entities that work closely with the courts (e.g., county attorneys, public defenders, law enforcement).
- ☐ **Judicial Video Network (\$608,289).** The Judicial Branch, in cooperation with the Department of Administration and VisionNet, has merged four separate grant-funded interactive video systems into the Judicial Video Network. The network, consisting of 32 sites with at least one site in each judicial district, is used by courts at all levels, local detention centers, state correctional facilities, and the Montana State Hospital. In 2005, almost 1,600 hours were logged on the network for an estimated cost avoidance of \$640,000 in mileage, per diem, and staff time for state and local entities. In 2006, nearly 5,000 video hours were logged. In addition to avoiding travel costs, video network use provides a significant public safety benefit by eliminating the need to transport potentially

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dangerous subjects from a detention center or state institution to the courthouse. This funding would be used to add 9 new sites (courtrooms) and to cover transport costs for the expanded network during the 2009 biennium. Transport costs may decrease if the Department of Administration upgrades the state network to support video and data on a single courthouse circuit.

- ☐ **Courtroom infrastructure and equipment upgrades (\$691,711).** The technology in several of the 74 District Court courtrooms is old, brittle, and failing and sometimes simply nonexistent. This funding would be used to upgrade courtroom sound systems and wiring for connectivity, replace obsolete court reporting and recording equipment, and purchase systems to enable the display of electronic evidence.
- ☐ **District Court judicial calendaring program (\$95,000).** An electronic judicial calendaring program is a management tool that allows judges to efficiently track their case related and non-case related activities. It is a high priority need among District Court judges and staff, many of whom are currently using paper calendars or generic electronic calendars that are not geared for judicial business. This funding would be used to purchase licenses for a web-based, commercial software package and for installation and training. It also covers the cost of Department of Administration hosted services and software maintenance for the 2009 biennium.
- ☐ **Document management system (\$900,000).** The Judiciary is a document-intensive branch. A document management system is a means to electronically store, retrieve, secure, and archive these documents. FileNet is the software standard for document management systems for state government. This funding would be used to purchase a FileNet license and build an interface between the District Courts' case management system (FullCourt) and FileNet. It also covers the cost of Department of Administration hosted services and software maintenance for the 2009 biennium.
- ☐ **Electronic case filing system (\$540,000).** Electronic case filing systems, such as those used in the federal courts and several states, allow documents (e.g., motions, complaints, briefs) to be filed in electronic form with the appropriate courts. These systems reduce paper usage and storage, reduce trips to the courthouse, enable filing, access, and review of court documents on a 24-hour/7 day a week basis, provide flexible options for paying filing fees, and reduce the amount of data entry for the courts. This funding would be used to develop a single web portal for electronically filing documents in the Supreme Court and District Courts. It covers the cost of a software license, contracted services to deploy the software and provide training, and Department of Administration hosted services for the 2009 biennium.